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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Week Ending July 2, 2006

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This report can be found on the Internet at

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop_Progress_and_Condition/index.asp

Poor week for Field Work: The rain came down with a vengeance during the beginning of the week, putting the majority of the state under a flash flood warning. Eastern parts of the state were even under a state of emergency, where some areas received over 8 inches of rain. Flooding caused several field crops to sustain heavy damage, especially wheat. Several farmers reported that wheat fields were flattened; forcing some wheat to be switched from commercial use to livestock feed. Haymaking was temporarily put on hold last week since few farmers had any chance to get into the fields. Now crops are in need of sunshine. Otherwise, crop conditions will continue to decline. Overall, only 2 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included pumping water, spraying pesticides and topdressings, repairing equipment and fences, rotating pastures, and spreading manure.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 2, 2006

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	1	49	50

Crops: It looks as though corn will be above knee-high before the 4th of July. Corn is growing rapidly at 35 inches, 3 inches ahead of the average. The rain helped the corn condition, with 77 percent of the crop reported to be in good or excellent condition. Pennsylvanians are still waiting for corn to tassel. About all of the soybeans have emerged at 98 percent, which is 10 percent ahead of average. Soybean condition is reported as 76 percent good or excellent. The wheat crop is well ahead of schedule, as 70 percent of the crop has ripened, double the 5-year average of 35 percent. Harvest is still far ahead, as farmers have taken 20 percent of their crop off the field. This is the most advanced the wheat crop has been in the past several years. Although progress is well ahead of schedule, wheat condition is not fairing so well. The heavy rain caused condition to drastically decline, as 29 percent of the crop is in poor condition. Barley progress has basically remained stagnant from the previous week. Farmers only got an additional 3 percent of their barley crop harvested last week, so harvest is now 63 percent complete, lagging last year's figure and the 5-year average. Ninety-four percent of the crop is ripe, the same as the previous week. Eighty-one percent of the oat crop is headed and 13 percent of the crop is ripe. Both figures are about even with the 5-year average. Oat condition has improved slightly from the previous week, with eighty-one percent of the oat crop in either good or excellent condition. In comparison with last year, first cutting for alfalfa is the same at 96 percent complete. Second cutting progress is lagging the 5-year average by 11 percent due to the rain last week. Currently, 24 percent of second cutting is complete, the same as last week. The timothy/clover first cutting is 75 percent complete, which is the same

as the 5-year average. The quality of hay made has notably declined from the previous week, with last week's conditions reported as 4 percent very poor, 19 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 6 percent excellent.

The peach and apple conditions in Pennsylvania have declined a little this past week. Ninety-nine percent of the apples and 95 percent of the peaches are reported to be in good or excellent condition.

Livestock: Pasture condition has improved this week. However, some pastures are flooded, causing farmers to fence off parts of the pasture to allow it to dry and recuperate. Conditions were reported as the following: 2 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 10 percent excellent.

U.S. as of June 27, 2006: Conditions ranged from local moisture shortages in the southwestern Corn Belt to excessive wetness at some locations in the eastern Corn Belt. Moderate to heavy rainfall in the eastern third of the Nation improved soil moisture levels in the eastern Corn Belt and Ohio River Valley, while lighter, less widespread precipitation fell across the Mississippi Valley. Above-normal temperatures prevailed across most of the Nation, with the exception of the northern tier of states from the Pacific Northwest to the Great Lakes.

Corn: Five percent of the crop was at or beyond the silking stage, 1 percentage point ahead of last year but the same as the 5-year average. Silking had not yet begun in the Ohio Valley and northern Corn Belt and was just getting underway in the central Corn Belt. Condition of the crop improved significantly with moderate rainfall across much of the Corn Belt and Great Plains.

Soybeans: Emergence advanced to 97 percent, compared with 96 percent last year and 92 percent for the 5-year average. Progress was ahead of normal in all states, except Indiana. Blooming, at 6 percent, was 1 point ahead of last year and 2 points ahead of normal.

Winter Wheat: Growers had harvested 53 percent of their acreage, 13 points ahead of last year and 15 points ahead of normal. Harvest was ahead of normal in most states, except Indiana and North Carolina.

Small Grains: Thirty-four percent of the barley crop was heading or beyond, compared with 25 percent last year and 24 percent for the 5-year average.

Oat heading, at 76 percent, was 13 points ahead of last year and 17 points ahead of normal. Small grain heading advanced rapidly in the northern Great Plains and northern Corn Belt, despite below-normal temperatures. Progress was ahead of normal in most eastern areas.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 2, 2006

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 2, 2006					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	84	57	71	2	1.21	4	9.66	-1.35	41	925	120	1,726
Franklin	84	52	68	-1	0.75	5	11.77	-0.56	42	866	91	1,708
Meadville	81	55	68	2	0.79	4	10.54	-1.37	40	861	166	1,676
Mercer	83	53	68	0	0.93	5	14.74	2.66	43	805	32	1,635
Springboro	82	52	67	-4	1.70	5	13.76	3.13	44	744	-76	1,522
Warren	82	53	67	-2	2.75	4	14.02	1.32	42	787	41	1,594
North Central												
Bradford Region	77	46	65	2	1.99	4	11.50	-1.33	42	618	100	1,364
Emporium	83	55	69	5	3.24	5	14.65	1.82	44	812	224	1,656
Kane	79	46	63	-2	1.91	4	10.85	-2.06	37	524	14	1,262
Laporte	77	53	67	-2	5.92	6	16.89	4.75	47	683	-89	1,470
Lock Haven	83	55	71	3	3.30	5	14.50	2.80	39	957	119	1,832
Port Allegany	80	50	66	2	1.88	5	10.93	-1.52	39	656	54	1,427
Renovo	83	56	71	2	1.46	6	12.15	0.45	44	922	84	1,790
Ridgway	80	49	66	2	1.52	6	12.35	-0.48	45	656	68	1,453
Stevenson Dam	83	56	70	5	2.23	5	10.35	-2.48	37	856	268	1,718
Towanda	87	52	71	4	3.66	7	11.17	1.08	42	872	86	1,701
Wellsboro	78	49	66	3	1.98	5	11.27	1.24	39	656	113	1,426
Williamsport	85	56	73	3	4.33	7	12.28	0.59	41	1,048	97	1,923
Northeast												
Hawley	83	51	69	4	7.01	5	20.85	9.42	34	741	107	1,533
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	82	52	71	2	6.79	7	14.34	3.48	39	972	84	1,825
Susquehanna	82	54	70	5	9.18	6	19.92	7.88	47	779	175	1,586
West Central												
Butler	83	51	67	-3	1.43	5	13.02	1.10	41	826	9	1,679
New Castle	85	53	69	-1	0.41	2	12.68	1.79	41	956	138	1,820
Slippery Rock	82	54	67	0	2.29	6	16.70	5.06	48	874	140	1,727
Central												
Altoona/Blair	81	53	69	-2	1.78	4	9.85	-1.18	37	938	34	1,807
DuBois	78	51	67	-2	2.47	6	13.64	1.29	47	789	31	1,609
Lewistown	86	56	72	1	3.69	3	14.20	2.55	37	1,028	28	1,911
Middletown	85	59	74	1	6.01	4	13.94	2.35	33	1,282	142	2,182
Prince Gallitzi	82	50	66	0	2.40	3	13.13	-0.56	40	692	6	1,510
Selinsgrove	84	56	71	1	5.87	6	16.72	4.88	38	990	74	1,865
State College	82	59	71	2	2.41	5	10.41	-0.42	36	1,002	116	1,882
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	84	57	73	2	6.00	4	14.13	2.40	40	1,137	109	2,021
Lehighton	83	57	71	0	7.63	6	18.56	6.81	45	1,001	21	1,866
Matamoras	83	53	70	1	5.74	6	16.08	3.67	44	835	-37	1,660
Mt_Pocono	80	51	68	4	8.11	5	19.57	6.51	45	727	188	1,526
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	82	58	70	0	1.34	5	10.90	-0.54	44	1,082	176	1,971
Derry	82	56	67	-2	0.93	3	13.82	2.36	38	853	22	1,710
Myersdale	81	48	65	-5	1.22	4	11.77	-0.79	45	573	-239	1,360
Mount Pleasant	81	51	67	0	0.85	4	12.90	-0.36	41	829	107	1,681
Pittsburgh Intl	82	54	69	-2	1.03	4	10.56	-0.15	40	1,041	80	1,918
Connellsville	84	53	70	-2	1.04	5	12.87	0.36	49	1,002	11	1,878
Waynesburg	83	52	68	-2	1.22	3	9.75	-1.76	38	885	12	1,755
South Central												
Biglerville	86	58	72	-2	7.53	4	16.54	5.71	37	1,133	4	2,030
Everett	78	51	66	-5	1.52	4	11.90	1.43	41	687	-189	1,554
Hanover	87	57	73	0	5.70	4	13.03	2.20	39	1,118	-11	2,009
Harrisburg_AP	86	59	74	1	4.97	4	13.79	2.20	37	1,234	87	2,134
South Mountain	81	53	68	-2	9.44	4	19.42	8.39	40	827	-70	1,684
York	86	56	74	1	4.75	5	11.72	-0.12	40	1,113	-19	1,998
Southeast												
Green Lane	85	59	74	3	6.60	6	18.29	6.99	40	1,148	180	2,036
Hamburg	85	57	73	4	7.97	6	16.91	3.16	44	1,188	326	2,074
West_Chester	87	53	72	-2	6.41	5	17.22	4.52	35	1,051	-62	1,933
Lancaster	85	59	74	2	9.93	5	19.79	8.13	38	1,186	154	2,080
Neshaminy Falls	86	59	73	2	4.14	6	17.31	4.48	37	1,056	28	1,946
New Holland	87	58	74	2	5.09	5	12.97	1.31	38	1,189	157	2,079
Philadelphia	87	63	76	2	4.01	4	13.83	2.46	31	1,436	222	2,353
Philadelphia NE	88	62	76	2	3.13	6	15.27	3.90	36	1,417	203	2,329
Reading	85	58	74	3	5.15	4	14.16	1.39	36	1,230	230	2,121
Valley Forge Na	88	56	74	-2	5.16	6	16.72	4.93	37	1,164	-26	2,056
Willow Grove	86	61	75	3	4.30	4	14.72	1.89	36	1,254	226	2,156

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA) - Adams County had lots of rain since last weekend. Most parts of the county had at least 12 inches since Sunday and some areas only had up to 4 inches. Some flooding in the county occurred and all fields are wet with no fieldwork completed this week.

Wheat was just about ready to be harvested but then the heavy rains came to the area and could cause some loss for wheat crop due to wet weather. Barley has been mostly harvested but some straw didn't get baled before the rains and continues to be in the wet fields. Corn and soybeans received a boost with some of the rain. The majority of the corn will be knee high by the Fourth of July. Haymaking came to a quick halt due to the rain also. The rain will be beneficial for later cuttings this summer.

Sour cherries were being harvested and then the rains hit. Apples and peaches continue to do well.

It will be a couple more sunny days until the producers can get back into the fields in some areas of the county. The other parts of the county will continue to be wet for another week before fieldwork can resume.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Work this week included pumping water, re-grading driveways and fixing fences. Our drought was washed away this week with over 10 inches of rain. This was good in that it will help the corn, beans and hay crop. However, it did delay the wheat harvest and with the humid days since, it is likely that much of the remaining wheat will be feed grade if it is even harvested. Overall, there was not widespread loss of crops. Third cutting of alfalfa looks better than many of the years in the past. Rain did more good than damage.

BUCKS COUNTY, Darrell Tribue (FSA) - The 5 day rainy period is being followed by daily thunderstorms that kept soil moisture levels high, which hampered field activity. Recent rains and subsequent flooding have caused field wash outs where the soil was worked to some degree, with damages to soil conservation practices evident throughout Bucks and Montgomery Counties.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - The winds and rains have flattened some of the wheat and barley fields. The activities this week included harvesting hay, spraying, and trimming fences.

CHESTER COUNTY, Samuel High (NRCS) - Last week's storms did cause some field erosion damage along with flood damage, mostly in the northern and central sections of Chester County. The full extent of rill and gully damage to cropland won't be known until harvest time.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - We had a much needed wet week. It was difficult to keep up with spraying nitrogen top dressing. My gauge had 2.75 inches for the week.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice) - Quite a bit of flood damage to crops. There are some concerns of nitrogen leaching that will affect corn potential. It was too wet to plant snap beans, so overall acres may be down.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum - Corn looks great. We had large amounts of rain this past week.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, John Rowehl - Wheat has been found sprouted in the field. Straw is turning black just as harvesting has begun.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Another wet week slowed field work to a minimum. Corn and beans are looking good in our area. The rains have helped regrowth for hay and pasture fields.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - More than 12 inches of rain from the recent storms resulted in many low lying fields being swamped with stream run off. Not much field work as a result of soils being super saturated. Barley harvest is not completed and wheat harvest is waiting for better soil conditions. Potato leafhoppers are not affected by the rain and significant injury is now evident.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - The wet weather is taking its toll on all crops. Corn is turning yellow; badly in need of nitrogen. Spraying is much needed to control volunteer plants. First crop hay is about 50% complete. Many acres of hay, oats, wheat, and barley are flattened on the ground. Some wheat has sprouted in the field. Strawberries ripened quickly and berries are small. The rains have forced plants to drop fruit. Tomatoes and peppers are losing blossoms. Other plants are pinching off from too much water.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) - Rain was from 8 to 15 inches over a 6 day period. The conservation tilled fields with good crop residue management did not have the soil erosion that some of our conventional tilled fields had. Some fields had gullies 2 feet deep or better. The weather seemed to have odd patterns the past several years. The rains slowed small grain harvesting. There is a considerable amount of lodging and twisting of slain grains. Tobacco wilted where water stood or ran too long.

All was not bad though, as corn grew taller, hay grew faster, and pastures are looking good. Farmers resumed cutting hay by the end of the week. We hope that the sun shines for a little while.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Rain, Rain Go Away, Come Again Some Other Day. The rains during this past week have been very plentiful, ranging from six to nearly ten inches. This caused minor flooding in the area, while lowering the quality of many of the crops. The corn, soybeans, and alfalfa in the poorly drained areas have turned yellow and stopped growing. Due to the fields being saturated, there were very limited field activities. The wheat is near ready to be harvested. There are soybean fields that need to be sprayed. Also, the second cutting of hay is ready to be cut; with the quantity being near the level of the first cutting in many fields. However, we need haymaking weather.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney (NRCS) - Flooding has devastated a lot of the corn crops planted on the creek and river flats.

WARREN COUNTY, Augusta Durlin - TOOOO much rain. First we are in a drought, now we can't get on the fields. The warm temps are improving the corn. Cows are loving the fresh chopped oats.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - The week's storms continue to provide the county with plenty of moisture while fortunately avoiding any flooding or major damage. After about two weeks of rain, we soon will need some dry conditions so small grains and hay can be timely harvested.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 2, 2006

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn average height, inches	35	33	32
Barley, ripe	94	92	89
Barley, harvested	63	71	69
Wheat, ripe	70	34	35
Wheat, harvested	20	0	0
Oats, heading or headed	81	86	79
Oats, turning yellow	13	11	15
Soybeans, emerged	98	99	88
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	96	96	91
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	24	42	35
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	75	85	75

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 2, 2006

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	4	18	54	23
Wheat	7	22	23	42	6
Oats	0	2	18	70	10
Soybeans	0	2	22	66	10
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	2	21	61	16
Timothy clover stand	1	5	30	53	11
Quality of hay made	4	19	30	41	6
Pasture	2	8	25	55	10
Peaches	0	1	4	54	41
Apples	0	0	1	50	49

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